

January 21, 2012

Issued as of 9:04 p.m.

Travel Alert issued for south central and southwest portion of the state

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has issued a **Travel Alert** for the south central and southwest portions of the state due to freezing rain and snow falling Saturday night and Sunday which may create icy road conditions. This includes the areas surrounding Kenmare, Beulah, Underwood, McClusky, Beach, Dickinson, Richardton, Bismarck, Steele, Bowman, Hettinger, Selfridge and Linton. Motorists in the eastern portion of the state may experience similar conditions Sunday morning as this weather system travels east across the state. Conditions are such that **motorists can still travel**, but are encouraged to use extreme caution, reduced speeds and drive according to the conditions.

NDDOT releases information to inform the public about travel conditions throughout the state. The three categories are as follows:

1. **Travel Alerts** are issued to alert motorists that areas of challenging winter driving conditions may be encountered on roadways. Conditions are such that motorists can still travel; however, they should be aware that rapidly changing conditions may result in travel delays due to reduced speeds and visibility. Travel Alerts have the potential to change into a No Travel Advisory if conditions deteriorate.
2. **No Travel Advisories** are issued when conditions warrant no travel but not a road closure. No Travel Advisories have the potential to change to a Road Closure if conditions deteriorate. No Travel Advisories are issued for public safety to encourage motorists not to venture out onto the roads. Motorists are urged to take No Travel Advisories seriously. Conditions change often during a storm event and motorists may become stranded if they are caught between destinations.
3. **Roads are closed** when conditions create a life-threatening danger to motorists. The roadway is impassable and it is against the law to drive past a road closure device on a closed road. Motorists should obey road closures, even when a sign or a gate is not present.

All travelers are encouraged to monitor road conditions, reduce traffic speeds as weather conditions occur and use caution while traveling. For road information, call 511 from any type of phone or go to the website: www.dot.nd.gov.

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